

ATTACHMENT

Los Padres Forest Association

6755 Hollister Ave Suite 150

Goleta, CA 93117

November 6, 2007.



Dear Front Country Trails Task Force and Agency Staff:

The Los Padres Forest Association (501c3 non-profit) was founded in 1979 with the following mission. The LPFA is the official non-profit cooperating association for Los Padres National Forest. The organization is dedicated to the care and protection of the forest. LPFA supports stewardship of the forest and is committed to educating the public to use the forest sensitively and responsibly in order to protect the natural environment. The LPFA maintains a participating agreement with the Los Padres National Forest to full fill this mission.

The LPFA supports the Trails Council Trails Management Recommendation as the short and long term items are logical and commonly used as building blocks of trail management plans across the country.

The LPFA is also interested in participating with the Trails Council in building a coalition of trail oriented organizations and building relationships with the land management agencies.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason Beckstrand". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Jason Beckstrand
President, Los Padres Forest Association**

THE SANTA BARBARA COUNTY TRAILS COUNCIL

November 6, 2007

Parks and Recreation Department
City of Santa Barbara
PO Box 1990
Santa Barbara, CA 93102

RE: Santa Barbara County Trails Council Trails Management Recommendation to the Front Country Trails Task Force and Agency Staff

Dear Front Country Trails Task Force and Agency Staff:

The Santa Barbara County Trails Council (Trails Council), a non-profit 501c4, was founded in 1966 with these specific purposes: (a) To conduct activities which further the planning, acquisition, construction, and maintenance of public trails in Santa Barbara County, (b) to be a strong voice for trails advocacy in Santa Barbara County, and (c) to promote responsible, safe, and environmentally sound trail development and uses.

The Trails Council board consists of a broad spectrum of hikers, bicyclists, equestrians and members of local trail advocacy organizations. The combined membership embodies a wealth of knowledge and expertise in the following areas: Santa Barbara County trail history, sustainable trail planning, design, and maintenance, volunteer coordination, trail volunteer and trail user education programs, and risk assessment and management.

The Trails Council has a number of past accomplishments that have benefited the Santa Barbara trails community:

- Acquisition of Rattlesnake Canyon for City Parks
- Acquisition of 14 acres north of Stevens Park to connect with the Arroyo Burro trailhead
- Creation of the 1969 County Trails Plan
- Creation of the County Riding and Hiking Trails Advisory Commission (CRAHTAC)
- Creation of the Obern Bike Trail
- Partner in Baron Ranch planning

The Trails Council has a vested interest in fostering responsible, cohesive, coordinated, and comprehensive management of the Santa Barbara area trails for the benefit of the community. Towards this goal, the Trails Council is submitting the following Trails Management Recommendation consisting of short and long term steps.

Trails Council Trails Management Recommendation

Short-Term (Year 2008):

- Governmental agencies partner with one or more non-profit, representative trail advocacy organizations to assist in the implementation of short-term management steps.
- Inventory, assess and survey trails, and compile data in an organized presentable format.
- Trails management training. (Agency staff and trail advocates)
- Fund, design, and implement basic trail head signage on the original identified trails at minimum.
- Implement volunteer trail patrols and education.
- Review adaptive management options.

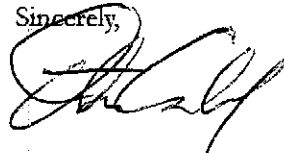
Long-Term (Year 2009 and beyond):

- Secure long-term MOU and/or non-profit partnership.
- Development of "Best Practices" strategies for a long-term Trails Management Plan based on the trail inventory, assessment, and survey data.
- Assemble a Risk Assessment and Management Team.
- Assemble a trail funding team.
- Establish trail planning, design, and construction guidelines.
- Management of a trail maintenance program.
- Establish trail inspection system and maintenance policies agreed upon by the jurisdictions.
- Implement a trail difficulty rating system.
- Research, plan, and develop new trail opportunities beginning with the most easily attainable and/or upon existing easements.
- Further develop and modify signage system to be effective and universally understood.
- Develop a coordinated emergency plan with local safety agencies.
- Create a record keeping system.
- Develop an accident reporting and analysis system.

The Trails Council is optimistic about the success of the Task Force process. This is the first time in memory that the three land management agencies have begun to officially take a close look at our trails as a system. And, the Task Force is now investigating the kind of sophisticated management that is required for such a system to be successful. The Trails Council applauds the leadership taken by the Task Force, encourages the Task Force to continue productive steps forward, and appreciates this opportunity to present a management recommendation. The Trails Council also hopes to be a partner in the ongoing process by offering the cumulative wealth of knowledge and expertise our organization retains.

For the Santa Barbara Trails Council Board:

Sincerely,



Otis Calef, President

THE SANTA BARBARA COUNTY TRAILS COUNCIL

November 6, 2007

Parks and Recreation Department
City of Santa Barbara
PO Box 1990
Santa Barbara, CA 93102

Dear Front Country Trails Task Force and Agency Staff:

REQUEST FOR PARTNERSHIP

The Santa Barbara County Trails Council is requesting a partnership with the City of Santa Barbara, the County of Santa Barbara, and the Los Padres Forest Service.

I. Description of Requesting Organization

Name: The Santa Barbara County Trails Council:
Founded: 1966

Contact: Otis Calef, President, 1119 Cliff Dr., Santa Barbara, Ca. 93109
phone 805-963-2779, email *president@sbtrails.org*

Purpose: The Trails Council is organized under the Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation Law for charitable purposes. The specific purposes for which this corporation is organized are: (a) To conduct activities which further the planning, acquisition, construction, and maintenance of public trails in Santa Barbara County, (b) to be a strong voice for trails advocacy in Santa Barbara County, (c) to promote responsible, safe, and environmentally sound trail development and use.

Services Provided: The Santa Barbara Trails Council and its partnering organizations can provide a wide range of trail-related services that include:

- Development and coordination of a volunteer program.
- Trail maintenance, trail building and trail rehabilitation skills based on sustainable trail design and multi-user standards.
- Funding research and grant writing.
- Development of trail user and education programs.
- Experience in the development of trail signing and information materials.
- Coordinating with public agencies, private organizations and the community in trail research, acquisition, and development.

Membership: Composed of hikers, equestrians, and bicyclists, joggers and other trail user groups. Mailing list currently consists of 350 individuals and organizations.

Accomplishments: Acquisition of Rattlesnake Canyon for City Parks; acquisition of 14 acres north of Stevens Park to connect with the Arroyo Burro trailhead; creation of the 1969 County Trails Plan; creation of County Riding and Hiking Trails Advisory Commission (CRAHTAC); creation of the Obern Bike Trail; partner in Baron Ranch planning. Working in close cooperation

with the Los Padres Forest Association and SB Mountain Bike Trail Volunteers, the Trails Council has been a part of maintaining the Forest Service trails on the front country.

Legal Status: The Trails Council is a 501c4 Mutual Benefit Organization. The Trails Council has recently submitted the necessary documents to the Secretary of State restating its articles to change its status to a 501C3 Public Benefit Organization. An application for exemption with the IRS is in progress.

II. Summary of Proposal

The City of Santa Barbara, the County of Santa Barbara, the Los Padres Forest Service and the Santa Barbara Trails Council are interested in fostering responsible, cohesive, coordinated, and comprehensive management of the Front Country Trails for the greater good of the community.

To further these goals, the Santa Barbara county Trails Council requests the Front Country Trails Task Force to recommend the development of an official partnership between the City of Santa Barbara, the County of Santa Barbara, the Los Padres Forest Service, and the Santa Barbara County Trails Council.

The purpose of this partnership would be for the Santa Barbara County Trails Council to assist the agencies in the management of the trails under their responsibility. This assistance may include the development of trail planning, trail design and maintenance, risk management, trail use, trail user, and volunteer guidelines and to assist in the implementation of these guidelines as "best practice" management strategies.

III. Value to the Community

The development of a partnership with the City, County and Forest Service provides a means to begin managing the front county trails in a consistent and professional way that hasn't been possible before. As trail use increases and the number of different user groups increases, it has become ever more important to provide a management structure that allows our community to build a trail network that works for everyone.

Current political and jurisdictional challenges make this achievement difficult, and as we begin to build a trail network that includes other parts of the South Coast, the challenge of managing a regional trails network will only grow more difficult.

For numerous reasons, the Trails Council is ideally suited to be an organization that partners with the agencies.

- A trail umbrella. The Trails Council has representation from all of the major trail groups and its mission is suited to working with these organizations to build a partnership that is representative of the community.
- Is Regional. The vision the Trails Council has for the front country trails encompasses far more than the seven trails identified in the Task Force study. The Trails Council has the breadth of representation and vision to work with the agencies to build the larger trail network needed to meet future needs.
- Supports Master Planning. The Trails Council has participated in the Trail Working Group, maintenance projects under the supervision of the three agencies, and in redesign and master planning. It brings a wealth of trail knowledge and experience in trail planning issues.

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- Contributes to Community Involvement. The Trails Council and its members have decades of experience in working with the community and specifically with the coordination of trail volunteer programs to build the type of community involvement needed to create a strong and successful volunteer program.
- Brings the Needed Trail Expertise. Trails Council members have extensive experience and expertise in trail design and building techniques, is capable of managing a professional trail crew or training the volunteer corps and has worked in close cooperation with a number of the agencies to provide safe, sustainable trails.

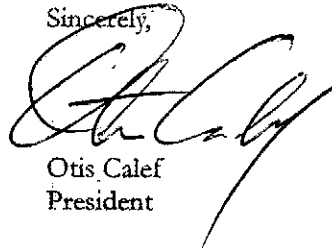
IV. Benefits to the City of Santa Barbara, County of Santa Barbara, and Los Padres Forest Service

A partnership of the Trails Council with the City, County and Forest Service provides an opportunity for the agencies to build a powerful set of relationships that can, over time, work to develop a safe and sustainable trails network for the community that meets both current and future needs.

- Bridges the jurisdictional gap that makes it difficult for the agencies to work together on trail management and planning issues.
- Provides a structure for coordinating trail planning, developing community-wide trail standards and meeting the needs of all trail users.
- Supports creation of a centralized structure for development of trail volunteer programs, trail sign & education materials and interpretive materials.
- Provides the expertise needed to gather trail data, perform community surveys and assist the agencies in developing a database of accurate information about the trails.
- Allows the agencies to focus on larger management issues while the Trails Council focuses on trail education, construction, operations, and maintenance.
- Assures that trail construction, maintenance, education activities and other trail related projects are completed according to guidelines established by the land management agencies.

For the Board of the Santa Barbara County
Trails Council,

Sincerely,



Otis Calef
President



SBMTV
PO Box 4003
Santa Barbara, CA 93140

November 7, 2007

Parks and Recreation Department
City of Santa Barbara
PO Box 1990
Santa Barbara, CA 93102

Dear Front Country Trails Task Force and Agency Staff:

The Santa Barbara Mountain Bike Trail Volunteers (501c3 non-profit) is trails advocacy organization composed of mountain bicyclists and other trail users. For the last twenty years, our mission has been to advocate for trail access, provide sustainable trail maintenance, and to educate the trails community about respectful trail use for the greater benefit of Santa Barbara County. SBMTV demonstrates our mission by volunteering more than 2000 hours each year to trail maintenance, trail user education, and trail stewardship.

As part of our mission, SBMTV has reviewed the Trails Management Recommendation submitted to the Front Country Trails Task Force by the Santa Barbara County Trails Council. SBMTV supports the Trails Council management recommendation. SBMTV has extensively researched trail management and believes that the Trails Council recommendation represents widely adopted and contemporary management strategies that can be used to build an enjoyable, equitable, and sustainable trail system in Santa Barbara.

Attached are two documents. The first document details the pros and cons of different parts of a management strategy. The second document details SBMTV's position on the previous Front Country Trails Working Group Recommendation and applies to the Trails Council Recommendation.

For the Santa Barbara Mountain Bike Trail Volunteers Board:

Sincerely,

John Berberet
President, Santa Barbara Mountain Bike Trail Volunteers



SBMTV
PO Box 4003
Santa Barbara, CA 93140
Email: info@sbmtv.org

November 7, 2007

Parks and Recreation Department
City of Santa Barbara
PO Box 1990
Santa Barbara, CA 93102

Dear Front Country Trails Task Force and Agency Staff:

Included below is the Santa Barbara Mountain Bike Trail Volunteer's restatement of support for the 2005 Front Country Trails Working Group proposal, our beliefs for successful implementation of change, and our challenge to the agencies to develop successful trail management models. Please review this statement and the FCTWG's original proposal.

HISTORY:

SBMTV was invited by Forest Service to participate in the Front Country Trails Working Group (FCTWG) as a representative of the mountain bike community because of SBMTV's eighteen years of volunteer service as first a Mountain Bike Patrol in the late 1980's, and then as the major organized volunteer force regularly maintaining Santa Barbara area trails, developing and hosting a bicycle bell program, developing trail etiquette information for trailheads and bicycle shops, developing mountain bike rider education programs, as consultants on local trail issues, and successfully working with the Forest Service to avoid closure of Snider trail in year 2000.

SBMTV members that participated in this process included past SBMTV presidents Chuck Anderson and Chris Orr, Kelly Steelman as an industry representative, and Dave Phreaner as a local rider representative. Other individuals and organizations that were represented in the FCTWG included the Montecito Trails Foundation, Mission Canyon Home Owners Association, Los Padres Trail Riders (equestrians), SB chapter of the Sierra Club, Safetrails, County Riding and Hiking Trails Advisory Committee (CRAHTAC), the Trails Council, and Los Padres Forest Association. Agency representatives from the Los Padres Forest Service, City of Santa Barbara, County of Santa Barbara, a paid mediator, and UCSB Bren students attended the meetings.

FCTWG participants were assembled by the Forest Service to address the issues of trail user safety and trail user conflicts. The Forest Service asked this group to develop a "recommended" trails management proposal to assist them in reducing those safety and conflict issues.

The FCTWG first met in September of 2002 and continued on a semi monthly basis through October 2004. These meetings at times were quite heated and included discussions on a broad range of trail issues, the full spectrum of trail usage from completely closed to completely open, and used trail information and trail data from around the world to develop the proposal. The FCTWG finished its work by submitting its completed trails management proposal to the City, County, and Forest Service. The FCTWG then met again in 2005 to discuss the agencies' review of this proposal.

SBMTV is proud of its involvement in the FCTWG process and proposal. This work represents the first time in almost thirty years of mountain bike usage on Santa Barbara trails that the varied

trail groups were able to work together and develop consensus on important trail issues and trail management. Prior to this successful work of the FCTWG, local government agencies had been unsuccessful in bringing user groups together. For example, in the late 1980's and early 1990's the agencies called together public hearings to address these same issues. The meetings were emotional shouting matches, no cooperative work was done, there was no consensus, and our trail system did not change. Many consider this status quo best. SBMTV does not. With the growing population, additional trail users of all types, and reduced agency resources, the three local trail management agencies need to apply a management model that effectively manages trail resources for all of the community. We challenge the Front Country Trails Task force to provide this vision and leadership on the trails - with assistance by concerned trail users.

SBMTV STATEMENT ON THE RECOMMENDED FCTWG PROPOSAL:

SBMTV supports the whole of the FCTWG Proposal which includes the creation of a "Trails Alliance" type of organization to manage volunteers, the creation of a broad user based trail hosting/education program, the installation of useful and informative trail signs, and adaptive trail management such as an interim odd/even plan for trail users in the Santa Barbara trail system.

Specifics of recommended FCTWG proposal:

- The Trails Alliance type of organization (supported):

The Trails Alliance had been functioning as a loose umbrella organization for trail users/groups to work within from 2002 to 2004. SBMTV believes an organization of this type is the most important aspect of the FCTWG proposal as it creates the opportunity to improve the trails and reduce user conflict through cooperation by the varied groups. SBMTV visions this organization as replacing the repeated 5 to 7 year cycle of trail use battles between trail users by improving relations between users, providing for additional trail maintenance, and assisting the agencies in the creation a "trails management" plan. Note: The Trails Alliance has merged with Santa Barbara's forty year young trails advocacy group the Santa Barbara County Trails Council. SBMTV believes now that the Santa Barbara County Trails Council has the ability to fill the roll described above.

- Trail hosting and education program (supported):

The proposed trail hosting/education program is a natural extension of SBMTV's Trailhead education program to a broader based multi-user information program. Between years 2000 and 2005, SBMTV volunteers have spent time at trailheads and on trail educating users about current trail issues, conflicts, trail etiquette, trail maintenance events, and distributing bike bells to mountain bikers. SBMTV's education and bell program has made significant improvements in bettering user interactions on the trail. A larger program could alleviate much of the user conflicts on trail and would include the same functionality and additional participation by all user types and may provide additional interpretive information and safety features such as First Aid.

- Trail signage (supported):

Santa Barbara trails are poorly signed. Our trails lack route, etiquette, safety, and interpretive information. However, between 2000 and 2005 SBMTV has posted at trailheads Forest Service approved trail etiquette/responsibility signs for mountain bikes and other users. SBMTV has long pushed for better signage of our trails by the agencies and the Trails Alliance had made steps towards designing and constructing signs for the community. These signs could provide trail route, etiquette, interpretive, and safety information. If signs were implemented, trail users would finally have a better idea of where they are going, their responsibilities, safety issues, local history, biology and geology, and what other types of users they can expect to encounter.

- Adaptive Trail Management (supported):

The FCTWG proposal calls for an interim Odd/Even plan for mountain bikes on Santa Barbara trails - but this plan is not defined or detailed in the FCTWG proposal. SBMTV supports the idea of adaptive management plans such odd/even and other alternative schedules for all users on a

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trail or trails within the Santa Barbara trail system, but does not support an immediate trail system wide odd/even mountain bike plan. SBMTV believes that for any adaptive trail management program to be successful the FCTWG recommendations of an umbrella trail organization, education, and signage will need to be first implemented and a number of important actions need to take place:

- 1) Data needs to be collected to determine the best practices for adaptive trail management.
- 2) The public and trail users will need to be notified and educated that changes are taking place.
- 3) Appropriate (change) signing would need to be implemented.
- 4) Most importantly, SBMTV and the local mountain biking community need to see that progress is being made by the governmental agencies and an umbrella trails advocacy organization to develop a comprehensive trails management plan that will provide access, enjoyment, and safety for all users - without the loss of trail miles. SBMTV strongly believes that if an adaptive management plan does not closely follow above points, the plan will cause more user conflicts on the trail and be doomed to failure.

Although the FCTWG proposal has been controversial, SBMTV views this proposal and an umbrella organization as critical to the improvement of our trail community and management of our trail system. We encourage the Trails Task Force to consider the design history of our trails and the management history of our trails. The majority of the Santa Barbara front country trail routes were created by the Chumash and/or mining/packing operations. These trails were not designed with any sustainability or recreational use in mind but were cut for efficient transportation. Trail management by local government agencies has been very minimal and uncoordinated due to funding and staffing limitations. The absence of trail design and minimal management have contributed significantly to our history of trail user conflicts. Our community now has a unique opportunity to find leadership in the agencies and advocacy organizations and to implement sustainable trail management models.

The time is ripe for new management models to address all user's needs, address trail sustainability, and include more public and agency cooperation. Because local government agencies lack resources in the funding of trail maintenance and lack recourse for enforcement, a new model of volunteer management and trail user education is critical. Local examples of small working models include the Los Padres Forest Association trail maintenance volunteers, SBMTV's trail user education program, and the combined trail design knowledge of those organizations. Additionally, new management models must include the research and development of new trail opportunities and the improvement of current trails.

Our challenge to the Trails Task Force and agency staff is that you move beyond governmental agency stasis by providing leadership: Provide the vision for the three governmental jurisdictions involved, pull together the resources of our local advocacy organizations, and repair the fractured trail user community by implementing a model of agency and public cooperation as outlined above. SBMTV will wholeheartedly support and assist the agencies in this endeavor and has the knowledge and experience to do so.

Please contact me with any questions or comments.

Regards,
Chris Orr

Trail Advocate

IMBA - Regional California Rep, www.imba.com

SBMTV - Vice President, www.sbmtv.org

"There is nothing that training cannot do. Nothing is above its reach or below it"
- Mark Twain



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Santa Barbara, CA 93140
Email: info@sbmtv.org

Trails Management - Summary of Techniques

This document has been compiled by the Santa Barbara Mountain Bike Trails Volunteers. The document summarizes and describes a number of commonly used and contemporary trail management techniques. These techniques can be used to build a successful trail system and community. The techniques included are:

- Land management agency and non-profit partnerships
- Inventory, Assessment and Survey of Trails
- Trails Training
- Trails Signage
- Trail Education
- Volunteer Trail Patrols
- Sustainable Trail Maintenance and Modification
- Alternating Access

Techniques to be included and described in the future:

- Risk Management

Land Management Agency and Non-profit Partnerships:

Summary:

Partnerships between land management agencies and non-profit trail groups can provide an opportunity for the building of relationships that may work to develop safe and sustainable trails networks for the community. Non-profit trail organizations may assist the agencies in the management of the trails under their responsibility. This assistance may include the development of trail planning, trail design and maintenance, risk management, trail use, trail user, and volunteer guidelines and to assist in the implementation of these guidelines.

Pros:

- Can bridge jurisdictional gaps that make it difficult for agencies to cooperate on trail management issues.
- Provides a structure for coordinating trail planning, developing community-wide trail standards, trail sign, educational, and interpretive materials.
- Provides the coordination needed to gather trail data, perform, community surveys, and assist the agencies in developing accurate information about the trails.

- Allows the agencies to focus on larger trail management issues while partnering organizations focus on trail education, patrolling, operations, and maintenance.
- Assures that trail construction, maintenance, education activities, and other trail related projects are completed according to the terms and guidelines established by the land management agencies.

Cons:

- It may take time to define partnership details, responsibilities and activities.

Inventory, Assessment, and Survey of Trails

Summary:

The trail assessment process benefits all trail users and land management agencies in a variety of ways by providing standardized, objective information about the availability and condition of existing trails to all trail users. Information gained from trail assessment will also assist in the development of trail planning and design guidelines.

Pros:

- Availability of accurate, reliable information about trail conditions
- Consistent information from trail to trail, or park to park, or region to region
- Ability to develop trails management guidelines from objective data
- Increased participation in trail activities by all types of users.
- Increased safety through knowledge of trail conditions
- Ability to match trail conditions to personal abilities or desired trail experience
- Improved information for maintenance
- Promotion of opportunities for trail use

Cons:

- Requires funding and coordination.

Safety Improvement:

- Trail sustainability, safety, and user guidelines can be developed from the data.

Resource Protections:

- Trail sustainability, safety, and user guidelines can be developed from the data.

Feasibility

- Excellent. Trail assessment and survey contractors are available in California. Many local trail organizations have needed knowledge to conduct inventories, assessments, and surveys.

Trails Training:

Summary:

The goal of trails training is to bring land management staff, agency staff, and trails people up to speed and current knowledge in the following areas: safety and environmental protection, sustainable trail planning, design, construction, maintenance, operation, and assessment, the land planning and development process, land developments that incorporate well-planned and connected trails and greenways, the economic and market value of greenways and trails, and strategies for expanding the greenways and trails network in the local area.

Pros:

- Bringing training to Santa Barbara saves scarce travel funds, reduces travel time, and eliminates the need to obtain out-of-area travel permission.
- Staff and volunteers receive training they could not get without significant time and travel expenditures.
- Increased coordination between land management agencies, trail organizations, and volunteers.
- Volunteers with better training will do work with more value.
- Youth are better educated for future employment in outdoor recreation and natural resources fields.
- The availability of skilled volunteers and staff reduces the cost of local trail projects and provides more significant matching services.
- Better training of local trail project sponsors will result in better trails built at a lower cost to be more sustainable and accessible over the long term.

Cons:

- Requires funding and coordination

Safety Improvement:

- Knowledgeable staff and volunteers can successfully work together to develop trail management, sustainability, safety, and user guidelines

Resource Protections:

- Knowledgeable staff and volunteers can successfully work together to develop trail management, sustainability, safety, and user guidelines

Feasibility:

- Excellent. Numerous trail building and training organizations are available for hire across the country. There are existing trails training programs in California.

Trail Head Signage:

Summary:

Informational and educational signage on the Santa Barbara front country trails is non-existent. Given the large number local trail users and of out of town visitors, and the first hand accounts of users who were unaware of our trail characteristics, improved signage is required. Significant informational trail head signage is the norm for high use urban interface trails. Our local front country trails are an exception, not the norm. Trail head signage should include details on the individual trail, general trail etiquette information for all users, and focused messages on trail safety and resource protection.

Pros:

- Educational information will always be present.
- Increased awareness of trail responsibilities and safety issues among trail users.
- Relatively inexpensive.
- Does not require extensive on-going coordination and volunteer activity.
- Gives official sanction to current signage efforts.

Cons:

- Not everyone reads signs.
- Vandalism (signs make good shooting targets).
- Esthetic concerns.

Safety Improvement:

- Decreased number of irresponsible trail users.
- Increased understanding among diverse users and better understanding of other users.
- Community spirit fosters a helping attitude and greater concern for the well being of other users.

Resource Protections:

- An educated trail community may have an inherently lower impact on resources.
- Littering, vandalism, illegal trail building activity, and trail tread damaging activities are all reduced.

Providing opportunities for growing trail user population

- Increasing trail population increases the need for signage. Users need to know what is acceptable and what is not.
- Educational signage does not alienate any current or future users from the trails.
- Signage easily modified to encompass changes in trail use patterns.

Feasibility

- Funding can be secured quickly.
- Can be implemented quickly.
- Requires no change in USFS, County, and City policies or procedures.
- Educational trail head signage is common throughout the country.

Trail Education:

Summary:

The recent SBMTV run trail head education program has made a significant improvement in trail etiquette, respect, and safety used by mountain bicyclists and other users on trails. However, to fully realize the potential of trail user education the program must be a multi-user-based program under an umbrella organization or the local land management agencies. This would develop an inclusive educational message, give all users a stake in the program, and bring together members of diverse user groups.

Trail user education is a proven tool in changing user behavior, protecting resources and increasing the level of stewardship among forest users. The ubiquity of “only you can prevent forest fires”, “tread lightly” and “take only pictures, leave only footprints” is strong testament to the power of user education.

Pros:

- Fosters stronger trail community, stewardship, and awareness of trail use and responsibility.
- No long term enforcement liabilities
- Self-propagating. Increasing awareness of users will increase the amount of education taking place.
- Local programs can be used as templates.
- Quick to implement.

Cons:

- Difficult volunteer work / volunteer burnout. Volunteers need encouragement and support.
- Not everyone will be open to educational message.
- Requires on-going coordination.
- May require incentives to maintain volunteer participation.
- Requires some degree of training for volunteers.

Safety Improvement:

- Decreased number of irresponsible trail users.
- Increased understanding among diverse users and better understanding of other users.
- Community spirit fosters a helping attitude and greater concern for the well being of other users.

Resource Protections:

- An educated trail community had an inherently lower impact on resources.
- Littering, vandalism, illegal trail building activity, and trail tread damaging activities are all reduced.

Providing opportunities for growing trail user population

- Education does not alienate any current or future users from the trails.
- Education program easily modified to encompass new trail uses that may arise in the future.
- Brings new users into the trail community.

Feasibility

- Successful SBMTV program.

- Program coordinated by umbrella organization or agencies will expand volunteer base and education information.
- Program may not require USFS, County, or City resources or change in current management policies.
- Education programs have a track record of success.

Volunteer Trail Patrols:

Summary:

Taking the concept of trail head education to the next level, an umbrella organization or the land management agencies can initiate a volunteer trail patrol program. This effort should be multi-user based with hiking, mountain bike riding and horse riding patrollers working in a coordinated effort. Operation of the patrol would be similar to the SBMTV run Bicycle Assistance Unit and the Volunteer Wilderness Rangers. Multi-user based trail patrols are in operation in many places throughout the country. They prove very effective in taking the responsible trail use message to the people, reducing resource damage, and fostering a spirit of cooperative community.

Pros:

- Supplies trail inspection, hazard identification, accident reporting, and on the fly maintenance.
- Significantly strengthens trail head education and trail head signage efforts.
- Provides trained volunteers to assist in emergency situations
- Provides a much needed "sanctioned" presence on the front country trails.
- Provides mechanism for gathering trail use data.
- Fosters increased cooperation between members of the trail community.

Cons:

- Difficult volunteer work / volunteer burnout.
- Requires significant volunteer training.
- Requires on-going coordination.
- May require incentives to maintain volunteer participation.
- Not everyone will be open to educational message.

Safety Improvement:

- Places trained "sanctioned" personnel on the trails.
- Patrollers can administer first-aid and facilitate emergency response in critical situations.

Resource Protections:

- Patrollers can monitor and report activities damaging resources.
- Littering, vandalism, illegal trail building activity, and trail tread damaging activities are all reduced due to increased official presence on trails.

Providing opportunities for growing trail user population

- Program easily expanded to encompass new trail users.
- Brings new users into the trail community.

Feasibility

- Requires dedicated volunteers.
- Requires volunteers service agreement with land managers
- Requires training and certification of volunteers.
- Similar patrols exist in many locations throughout the country.

Sustainable Trail Maintenance and Modification Guidelines:

Summary:

The local trails were never designed to be sustainable or for recreational use. They are very susceptible to erosion and inherently increase conflict. Many subtle, and not so subtle, trail modifications will reduce user conflict and increase the trails ability to sustain current and future use. Sections of trail can be re-designed to slow bicycle traffic, allow safe passage for all users, provide short alternate routes, increase sustainability, and continue enjoyment.

Pros:

- Permanent on trail solutions do not require enforcement and will reduce over all trail maintenance needs
- Increased trail sustainability
- Reduction of user conflicts
- Increased trail user enjoyment experiences.

Cons:

- Requires initial trail modifications which include agency and volunteer time.
- Requires some funding.

Safety Improvement:

- Bicycle traffic would be slowed in locations determined to have risk.
- All users would more opportunities to safely pass each other
- Mitigation of erosion issues could reduce tripping, falling, crashing incidents.

Resource Protections:

- Trail beds become more stable, trail last longer, require less maintenance.
- Soil deposition reduced in creeks and/or watersheds.

Providing opportunities for growing trail user population:

- Trail population would be able to enjoy trail with increased usage and less risk.

Feasibility:

- Currently implemented on a small scale. Very feasible if agencies and trail organizations make concerted efforts to cooperate, develop plans, and actively work.

Alternating Access:

Summary:

Rotating access restricts types of trail use on trails on alternating days.

Pros:

- Has been successful in areas that have the need support structures in place, including cooperating organizations, trail patrols, education, maintenance programs, and extensive informative signage.
- Potentially eliminate conflicts between members of the different user groups.
- Potentially eliminate perceived conflicts.
- Increase trail user awareness of trail conflict issues and responsibility.

Cons:

- Santa Barbara area does not have needed support structures in place, including cooperating organizations, trail patrols, education, maintenance programs, and extensive informative signage.
- Requires change in current USFS, County, and City trail use policies.
- Requires extensive education, signage, and publicity.
- Land management agencies do not have enforcement resources.
- Increased animosity between trail users if plan is not viewed as equitable to all users.
- Potential for confusion on what trails are open to what users on what day.
- Possibly increase aggression of some trail users.

Safety Improvement:

- Potential reduce hazardous trail user encounters.

Resource Protections:

- Increased potential for illegal trail construction and use.
- Focuses impacts of trail use types.

Feasibility

- Requires change land management policies
- Requires support structures to be in place.
- May require ongoing enforcement and/or community education
- Can be successful if majority of local and visiting trail users cooperate.



Montecito Trails Foundation

POST OFFICE BOX 5481 • SANTA BARBARA, CA 93150

November 8, 2007

Parks and Recreation Department
City of Santa Barbara
P.O. Box 1990
Santa Barbara, CA 93102

Re: Front Country Trails Task Force work-session 11/17/07; Montecito Trails Foundation (MTF); Recommendations Re: amelioration of trails user conflict.

Dear Staff:

The Montecito Trails Foundation (MTF) Board Members will attend the Front Country Trails Task Force work-session and will make a brief presentation of less than 10 minutes. The MTF presentation will include a description of our organization: its mission, its accomplishments and its trail user policies and recommendations.

MTF has a long history of partnering with the City, County and USFS, the three agencies involved in the Task Force process, to create and maintain an extensive trail system in the First District. MTF is encouraged that these agencies are working together with the local trails organizations to create a coordinated and responsible area-wide trails management plan. MTF will continue to partner with the agencies on issues concerning First District trails (Montecito, Summerland & Carpinteria). MTF wants to share its extensive expertise in land use planning, private/public liaising, trails advocacy & acquisition, fund-raising, and trail safety & maintenance with the other participating trails organizations. MTF wants to participate in developing a reasonable and workable trail program for all user groups and the acquisition of additional trails throughout the front country, especially in the 2nd and 3rd Districts, to alleviate the pressure on 1st District trails from overuse.

MTF has been a premier trails organization since 1964 when local residents joined together to preserve local recreational trails threatened by area development. MTF Founders successfully preserved community access to historic trails and created an exemplary trails advocacy organization. Since its founding, MTF has been raising private funds and acquiring public grants to acquire, build, map, sign and maintain an extensive network of over 300 miles of neighborhood trails in Santa Barbara County's First District. MTF was the first local trails organization to welcome all three trail user groups—hikers, equestrians and mountain bicyclists. MTF Board of Directors is made

up of members from all groups and MTF is an inclusive not exclusive organization providing activities for all trail users.

MTF is a private non-profit 501(c)(3) trail and open space advocacy foundation that works with landowners to obtain trail easements and with governmental agencies to develop and maintain safe trails in Montecito, Summerland and Carpinteria. MTF has 1,500 active members and a healthy budget. Over the past 10 years MTF has raised and spent over \$250,000 on trail mapping, building, repair and maintenance. We have created an extraordinary and exemplary organization that could serve as a template for other local trails groups.

MTF Mission Statement:

Our mission is threefold:

- Trail Maintenance and Safety: MTF raises funds used to preserve, sign, map and maintain a safe trails system in Santa Barbara County's First District.
- Acquisition, acceptance, and recordation of trails: MTF focus on long range land use planning efforts to create trail networks. MTF works with landowners obtain trail easements and as a liaison between landowners and governmental agencies in trail placement. MTF shepherds trail acquisition through the governmental process to insure trail acquisition, acceptance and recordation of the trail easements that over time result in a neighborhood trail network.
- Advocacy and Education: MTF Board members serve as open space and trails advocates countywide on other trails organizations to educate the public on trails issues.

MTF Accomplishments:

Although MTF has a long and distinguished list of past accomplishments, we focus on the future of trails in our community. MTF is actively planning the development of future trails in our community.

The present trails community may not realize exactly what MTF accomplished in the past beginning in 1964, with dedication of the historic Old Pueblo trail. MTF is responsible for the creation and/or the maintenance of the following in the listed governmental jurisdictions:

Past Accomplishments:

Old Pueblo Trail (County)
San Ysidro Trail (County & USFS)
Hot Springs Trail (County & USFS)
Romero Canyon Trail (County & USFS)
Cold Springs Trails (City, County, USFS)
Buena Vista Trail (County)
Toro Canyon Trail (County)
Parma Park Trails (City)

Peter Bakewell Trail (County)
Fearing Trail (County)
Casa Dorinda Trail (County)
Ennisbrook Trail System (County)
Summerland Park (County)
Perkins Trail (County)
Cynthia Wood Trail (County)
Lookout Park (county)
Ocean Meadows Trail

Pedaro Trail
Valley Club Trail

All Montecito Roadside trails
Ortega Ridge Trails

On-going Endeavors for future trails:

MTF works steadily over years to create a trails system. The following are examples of MTF land use planning goals for trails that are close to attainment:

- Franklin Trail: For over 20 years, MTF has sought and obtained the necessary trail easements over several properties to re-create the Franklin Trail in Carpinteria. Once dedication is complete MTF will conduct the necessary fundraising to build the Franklin Trail.
- Polo Club trails system: The future Polo Club trails is an example of how. Over the past 20 years, MTF has slowly and steadily obtained trail easement dedication over several properties surrounding the Polo Club, and when the final link is dedicated MTF will provide funds necessary to build a trail system.
- Nesbit trail near Summerland: for 19 years MTF has been working with past and present property owners of a large parcel of land to obtain and develop a trail through the proposed development.

MTF Trails Map & Trail GPS Marking

Trail safety has always been paramount to MTF. MTF maps its First District trails using latest GPS technology and has provided GPS markings on the Trails for public safety. MTF provides its map to MTF Members and local Public Safety Agencies such as the Montecito Fire Department to facilitate public safety on the trails.

MTF has had a long history of working with Public Agencies and private groups to ensure public safety, including:

Santa Barbara Sheriff Department
Montecito Fire District
Santa Barbara County Counsel
SB County Parks Department
USFS
SB City Parks & Recreation
City of Carpinteria

MERRAG
Montecito Association
Equine Evac
Montecito Union School
Cold Springs School
Land Trust of Santa Barbara

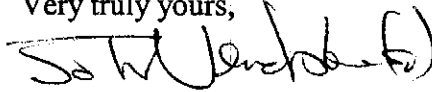
MTF has an active Board of Directors and membership that also serve on present and past Boards of other trail organizations and governmental committees and commissions including: Parks Commission, CRAHTAC, Board of Supervisors, Montecito Fire District. MTF also maintains a Trails Stewards Program under which a MTF Member is assigned a Trail to monitor the trail for needed repair.

Recommendations:

MTF seeks to continue in partnership with the USFS, County of Santa Barbara and the City of Santa Barbara on issues concerning First District trails (Montecito, Summerland & Carpinteria). It will also continue to work with all the other groups and agencies listed above to keep our trails safe. MTF offers to share its expertise with the other trails organizations and believes its considerable experience in land use planning,

private/public liaising, trails advocacy & acquisition, fund-raising, and trail safety & maintenance will be an in developing a reasonable and workable trail program for all user groups. In particular MTF believes in the goal of establishing additional trails throughout the front country, especially in the 2nd and 3rd Districts, is of paramount importance to alleviate the pressure on 1st District trails from overuse.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Venable", written over a horizontal line.

John Venable

President

Montecito Trails Foundation (MTF)

Multi-use Trails Plan V 1.0

Much of this proposal was created with the help of Jefferson County, Colorado Open Space personnel. They received the American Trails National Award for Outstanding Trail Sharing in 2004. Many of their ideas are unique and done no place else. They finance their open space program with a ½ % sales tax started in the 70's. New trail acquisitions are paid through bond measures. Much of what they do is through the help of the 1000 volunteers that come from Jefferson County (pop 500,000). Each Jeffco volunteer must work at least 40 hrs a year when they sign up. Volunteers must apply (see attached) for each position. Volunteers are awarded for service at end of year.

The Multi-use Trails Coalition would also like to thank the following Jefferson County employees who would be more than willing to answer any questions you may have.

Jean Schwartz, Jefferson County Open Space, Planner (303)271-5994

Amy Ito, Jefferson County Open Space, Planning and Development Manager (303)271-5937

Jana Johns, Jefferson County Open Space, Volunteer Services Coordinator (303)271-5922

Our Plan incorporates 3 main parts: Safety, Maintenance, and Management

We will try and put as much detail as possible on each point.

Safety

Signage with yield to rule- These signs would incorporate information about trails in the area and conditions along with "yield to" diagram and instructions.

Mandatory bicycle bells- All cyclists whether XC or DH must wear bells.

Trail Hosts/patrols- Jeffco has 150 of these, they would help educate as well as inform.

Outreach programs-done with the help of hosts, pamphlets, local bike shops, local mtn shops, clinics, and local manufacturers to help educate about proper trail use and yielding.

Surveys (see attached Jeffco survey)- This service done by the trail host annually will track user behavior, trends in use, and visitor perceptions not otherwise available.

Trail Maintenance

2-4 "Trail Clean Up Days" a year- Jeffco gets approx 45 people each time through advertising, kiosks/hosts, banners at trailheads for maintaining and building.

Trail Maintenance Continued

Once a month (seasonal) Mini Trail Crew- Done by local trail groups in cooperation with Jeffco after work, Dubbed "Trail Happy Hour" typically 10 people each time.

Trail Inspectors- Walk all the trails monthly to look for needed repairs.

Trail Building- Where appropriate.

Management

The formation of a multi-use advisory committee to the Task Force- meeting bi-annually this group made up of 2-3 members of each of the 3 user groups would discuss current issues and make recommendations to the TF. This committee would report to respective user groups before decisions were made. We hope that when the TF finishes in early 2008 they start this program, it is currently in use in Jeffco.

Trails would remain multiuse during the week- weekdays all trails currently multiuse would remain multiuse.

Tunnel Trail weekend alternating schedule- one day for hikers and equestrians one for cyclists. Jeffco has had very positive responses from this program. A posted schedule as well as schedule for use on local trail use groups websites would inform those using the trails. Possible enforcement: rangers, hosts. 2 yr evaluatory program.

Cold Springs Lower Main Trail parallel weekend schedule- On weekends CS would allow hikers and equestrians on one, cyclists on the other. (Canyon and Ridge Trails) 2 yr evaluatory program. See map for both trail routes.

*San Ysidro Trail weekend alternating schedule- same plan as Tunnel but on opposite days to allow one trail top to bottom open to each user group every weekend day. This would not include the fire road below SY Trail, it would remain multiuse. *Possible?

Soon to be opened Franklin Trail to be multiuse.

Tunnel Trail (paved area) division- A line painted or signage to encourage users to stay on the right for uphill and left for downhill travel to prevent collisions.

Parking Issues

Limited parking spaces- Encourage carpooling to trail head, shuttle service to TH?, how can we get more parking spaces at crowded trails like Tunnel, CS, Romero?

Car break ins- Signs at TH to encourage "hiding" valuables and a "watch" program possibly done by trail hosts.